

RG 11 RECORDS OF CAPE BRETON (1784-1820) AS A SEPARATE COLONY

Cape Breton has probably the oldest surviving European name used to designate part of North America. John Cabot may have made his landfall in 1497 on Cape Breton Island. Fagundes and his companions not only explored part of the northeastern coast of North America in 1520 but wintered at Ingonish in Cape Breton Island about 1525.

In 1621 Cape Breton Island was included in Sir William Alexander's Nova Scotia. Eight years later Sir James Stewart, afterwards Lord Ochiltree, established a short-lived settlement at Baleine Cove in Cape Breton Island. Later in the same century, Nicolas Denys established himself at St. Peter's and his brother Simon settled at St. Ann's. During the French régime, Louisbourg was founded in 1713 and a fortress was built there. Louisbourg, captured by New Englanders in conjunction with a squadron of the Royal Navy in 1745, was restored to France three or four years later. During the Seven Years' War, Louisbourg was captured again in 1758, and at the close of that conflict Cape Breton Island became British.

In 1763 Cape Breton Island was formally annexed to Nova Scotia. It continued to be part of Nova Scotia until 1784. From 1784 to 1820 Cape Breton Island was a separate colony. In 1820 it was re-annexed to Nova Scotia.

This record group does not contain all the records on Cape Breton for this period as a separate colony and some of the records are outside the period 1784-1820. Record Group 11 is a special collection whose arrangement has been affected by its provenance. The land papers of Cape Breton Island, when a separate colony, are in RG 20.

The records are in two sections. The first section has the relevant volumes from RG 1. The second section contains miscellaneous papers, particularly ordinances.

1. 1780-1844. Documents. Originals and transcripts, 1.5 m.
This series, in RG 1, is arranged as follows:

Vols. 315-317. 1784-1820. Dispatches from the Secretaries of State to the Governors of Cape Breton. Originals. List of contents in each volume.

Vol. 315. June 1784 - December 1797

Vol. 316. January 1798 - September 1808

Vol. 317. January 1809 - August 1820

Vol. 317A February 14, 1809 - April 7, 1819

x
Vols. 318-325. 1785-1820. Minutes of His Majesty's Council in Cape Breton. Indexed in Volumes 322 and 323. Originals.

Vol. 318. July 1785 - July 1787

Vol. 319. October 1787 - November 1792

Vol. 320. February 1794 - August 1798

Vol. 321. September 1798 - May 1810

Vol. 322. May 1810 - January 1817

Vol. 323. June 1818 - October 1820

Vol. 324. December 1801 - October 1809

Vol. 325. January 1810 - October 1820

(See also Vol. 332)

RG 11

CAPE BRETON

- Vol. 326-331. 1780-1841. Papers (miscellaneous) of the Island of Cape Breton, which include Minutes of Council and Privy Council, warrants, petitions, memorials and other documents. Originals
- Vol. 326. November 1780 - November 1809
 Vol. 327. January 1810 - December 1811
 Vol. 328. January 1817 - September 1817
 Vol. 329. January 1818 - December 1820
 Vol. 330. October 1799 - June 1841
 Vol. 331. Catalogue for Volumes 326-330 and Volume 333
- Vol. 332. 1785-1788. Papers of Cape Breton Island, including correspondence of Governors DesBarres and Macarmick and others, with copies of Minutes of Council, October 1787 - October 1788 and a description of the Island of Cape Breton and its dependencies. List of contents in the volume. Transcripts from the Public Record Office, London.
- Vol. 333. 1784-1820. Royal Orders in Council, instructions, parliamentary estimates and grants and other documents. List of contents in Volume 331. Originals
- Vols. 334-338. 1773-1844. Papers such as petitions, memorials, road appropriations and other documents relating to the Island of Cape Breton. Catalogued in Volume 470. Originals
- Vol. 334. November 1773 - August 1823
 Vol. 335. January 1824 - November 1827
 Vol. 336. January 1828 - August 1829
 Vol. 337. January 1830 - March 1833
 Vol. 338. December 1832 - July 1844
- Vols. 339-340. 1820-1832. Letters of the Provincial Secretary (Sir Rupert D. George) to officials and other persons in the Island of Cape Breton, largely concerning land grants. Originals
- Vol. 339. November 25, 1820 - April 25, 1822
 Vol. 340. February 7, 1828 - June 6, 1832

Land papers are in RG 20.

2. 1783-1820. Documents. Originals, 30 cm.
- Vol. 1. 1. Bonds and securities given to the Government by Public Officers and others, 1797-1820
 2. Militia Commissions and other commissions, 1787-1820
 3. Roads and Bridges, 1803-1814
- Vol. 2. 1. Vouchers and miscellaneous papers, 1783, 1791, 1797-1819
 2. Miscellaneous papers
 3. Ordinances, n.d.

187

RG 11

CAPE BRETON

- Vol. 3.
1. Ordinances, 1787-1801
 2. Ordinances, 1802-1805
 3. Ordinances, 1806-1820